

IAN PEARSON, Wycombe Wanderers' leading goalscorer this season, wants to return to professional football.

The Blues' 36-goal marksman has put in a request for a move which Wanderers are currently considering. Pearson joined Wycombe at the start of the season from Plymouth Argyle, where he was top goalscorer in the reserves two years running.

Despite his success at Wycombe, he has missed the full-time professional game and is anxious to return to league football. It seems un-

likely that he will leave before the end of the season in view of the club's promising position in the Rothmans Isthmian League, where they are bidding for the championship.

Wanderers will be confident of adding three more points to their total tonight (Tuesday) when they entertain struggling Ilford at Loakes Park.

Manager John Reardon is likely to field the same 12 that beat Sutton so convincingly on Saturday and reports no injury problems.

The 3-0 victory over Sutton must have been gratifying for Reardon, who has the difficult job of maintaining the club's interest in the league title, having

taken over from Ted Powell a week ago. Certainly some of the players seemed to give better performances under his leadership, notably Mick Holifield, who was the hero against United with two goals.

Although the Blues' game tonight against Ilford would seem something of a formality, they cannot afford to take the Essex club lightly. Ilford are fighting tooth and nail to avoid the drop into Division Two and after a disastrous start of the season, they have picked up considerably in recent weeks.

Staines spoilt their revival on Saturday when they won 4-1 at Newbury Park, but Ilford were without one or two experienced players in that game. They are banking on former professionals to see them through this season

and both Phil Beal, the former Tottenham defender, and Dennis Burnett of Millwall, played for them earlier in the season before going to America.

For tonight's game ex-Brentford professional Gordon Riddick should return to the side after injury, while two other new signings include Billy Coates from Leyton Orient and John Roseman from Epping Town.

Wycombe, who travel to Croydon in the league on Saturday, are expected to sign utility defender Billy Roberts in the near future. Roberts, a former Watford, Slough and Kingstonian player who has trained with Wanderers in the past, has made an application to join the Blues and is likely to be successful as they need cover for their defence.